

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY S:DSPIEGEL:BL

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 149826

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CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: Giscard/Brezhnev Meetin,TAGS: PARM, XG, OECD

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY POINTS OF Giscard d'Estaing's CONVERSATION WITH ME CONCERNING HIS TETE-A-TETE WITH BREZHNEV.

2. FIRST, BREZHNEV TOLD HIM THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE US WERE "DISAPPOINTING." HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT OR KNOW WHAT HE WANTED. BREZHNEV REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SAKHAROV, HIS MEETING WITH BUKOVSKY, AND THEN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INTERFERED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION. BREZHNEV ALSO REFERRED TO A RECENT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IN WHICH HE USED THE WORD "AGGRESSIVE," IN DESCRIBING COMPETITION BETWEEN US AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. BREZHNEV THEN REFERRED TO SALT, SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE THE SECRET

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PROPOSALS THAT WERE SUBMITTED IN MOSCOW. BREZHNEV SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE IN VLADIVOSTOK BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AND HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THIS ADMINISTRATION DID NOT CARRY THAT OUT. HE KNEW THAT THIS WAS A DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATION, BUT IT STILL WAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. BREZHNEV CLAIMED THAT THE US WAS STILL TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SOVIET UNION BY

ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WHICH PRESERVED US STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY. BREZHNEV SAID THAT, DESPITE THE FOREGOING, HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT BUT NOT UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON SALT. IN ANY EVENT, HE COULD NOT SEE HOW HE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO THE US BEFORE NEXT YEAR.

4. IN COMMENTING ON THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE, GISCARD SAID THAT IT WAS RATHER STRANGE THAT BREZHNEV READ ALL OF HIS STATEMENTS FROM PAPERS WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR HIM AHEAD OF TIME. BREZHNEV SEEMED UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN THE NORMAL GIVE-AND-TAKE DIALOGUE THAT HE WAS USED TO DOING IN THE PAST. GISCARD FOUND BREZHNEV LOOKING OLD AND TIRED. VANCE

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